

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 1 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 1. Formal drawings of the figures (including amended Fig. 1) are submitted herewith to replace the informal drawings.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-28 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 2-11 and 14 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 19 are amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Fig. 2. Claim 11 is amended to obviate informalities, as the Examiner requested.

Independent claim 12 is amended to incorporate subject matter recited in allowable claim 14. Claim 14 is canceled. Thus, claim 12, and claims 13 and 15-18 depending from, are in condition for allowance.

Allowable claim 3 is rewritten in independent form. New dependent claims 20-28 are added to depend from claim 3. New claims 20-28 recite the subject matter recited in claims 2 and 4-11, respectively. Claims 3 and 20-28 are in condition for allowance, because claim 3 is indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

The title is amended, as the Examiner requested. Formal drawings are submitted, with Fig. 1 amended to be designated as "related art." No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiner Lee for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative, Mr. Luo, during the May 3, 2006 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references listed on, and to return an initialed copy of, the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement concurrently filed herewith.

During an April 21, 2006 telephone interview, Examiner Lee indicated that the Patent Office misplaced the certified copy of the priority document. The Examiner suggested that Applicants submit a xerographical copy of the certified copy of the priority document to

expedite prosecution. Applicants are preparing a xerographical copy of the certified copy of the priority document, and will submit the xerographical copy at a later time.

The Office Action objects to the drawings. Fig. 1 is amended to be designated as "related art." Formal drawings of the figures are submitted herewith. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification. The title is amended, as the Examiner requested. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claim 11. Claim 11 is amended to obviate informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 11 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,731,667 to Watanabe et al. ("Watanabe"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 19 are amended to recite "a cover that has a main surface with a portion that, during an image scanning operation, extends in a substantially vertical direction. Watanabe does not disclose or suggest such a feature.

In particular, Watanabe discloses a device having a document cover 6 that remains in a horizontal direction during operation. See Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 31-48. As discussed during the personal interview, Watanabe does not disclose or suggest a cover that has a main surface with a portion that, during an image scanning operation, extends in a substantially horizontal direction. Therefore, Watanabe does not disclose each and every element in claims 1 and 19. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

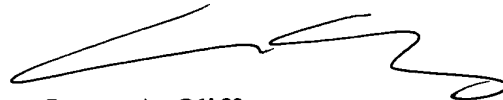
The Office Action rejects claims 12, 13 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,714,756 to Limuro. Claim 12 is amended to incorporate the allowable

subject matter of claim 14, as discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12, 13 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13 and 15-28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Replacement Sheets
Information Disclosure Statement
Amendment Transmittal

Date: May 15, 2006

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